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1933

Special Retail List of Cacti and Other Desert Plants

DESERT PLANT COMPANY, Station A, Box 95, El Paso, Texas

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY CACTI FROM US

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF FURNISHING RARE LARGE SPECIMENS FOR LANDSCAPE WORK

We send you fresh collected specimens, any sizes desired, and satisfaction guaranteed. Many varieties.

We are in the heart of the cactus country. We have a large crew of men and women collecting in every direction the best and healthiest plants, and they are all planted out doors in our gardens, or shipped direct from the wilds of Texas, Arizona and California.

No distance is too great for us to go after some RARE specimens that we hear about, and we furnish you the desired sizes for the use wanted. We have been collecting for over 35 years and we know where all varieties are to be found, and will please you if it is possible to be done.

Our Cacti are healthy and hardy and half hardy in Northern climates, as grown out of doors or as said before, shipped right from Nature's gardens, the healthiest grown.

If you get a collection from us that is not satisfactory, tell us about it, and we will make it satisfactory at once; our aim is to give you the best to be obtained at lowest RATES possible.

GENERAL HINTS ON CACTUS CULTURE

Upon receiving a box of cacti, unpack and place the plants in lukewarm water for half an hour. Cut roots short, and plant out in very sandy loam; give good drainage, with a little charcoal in bottom of pot. It is well to place a handful of propagating sand around the roots of each plant. New roots will soon form if little water is given.

In the soil where Echinocereus Straminens, Mam. Micromeris, and all cacti that are listed as growing on limestone ledges, should have some slacked lime well mixed in the soil.

In the Echinocacti Horizonthalonius soil should be more gravel than soil and no water after blooming season. Many say that the Horizonthalonius rot easily for them. In their native soil they grow mostly in rocky flats where there is good drainage, with very little soil of a sandy loam mixed with gravels. A rocky mound is the ideal place to grow Echinocacti. The Echinocacti have handsome blossoms, seem to flourish in the most desolate rocky arroyos. Throw together a miniature Rocky Mountain, and plant them in ledges. They make a better showing when several of a variety are planted in groups. Also the cluster varieties make a grand rockery, as most of their blossoms are very bright.

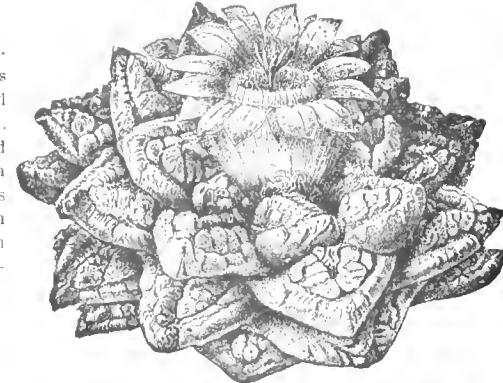
The native soil is of a peculiar composition; no matter how long a drought we have had, upon digging a cacti you will find the soil slightly moist.

In the spring before the blooming season the cacti does not look so bright and green, but after the summer rains begin they put on a wonderful growth of spines and body, and August is their most beautiful season.



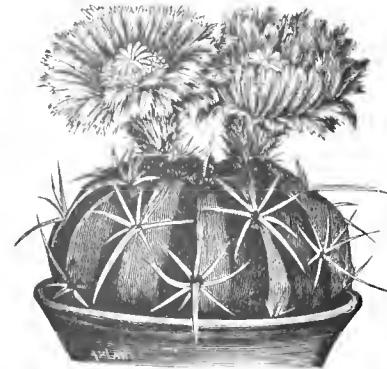
A Selection of Potted Cacti

ANHALONIUM FISSUR-RATUM. One of nature's most wonderful plants, called commonly LIVING ROCK, as it resembles a carved rock, until June, when a dainty pink blossom springs from the center. Grows in limestone ledges in Western Texas. A very desirable addition to any collection. Prices 50c to \$1.50.

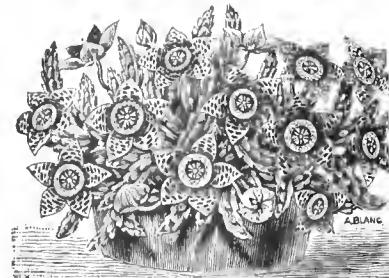


E. TEXENSIS. A very handsome cacti with its silvery blossoms in delicate pink; you cannot help but appreciate this variety and it should be in every collection. Blooming size plants 50c, specimens \$1.50, postage 25c extra.

Large, magnificent specimens, \$5.00 express collect.



STAPELIA VARIEGETA. A nice plant for the house, and makes a new variety in your cacti collection. Nice plants with a handsome 6 inch Mexican bowl to plant it in. FREE, only \$1.00, postpaid.



LIBRARY

RECEIVED

★ JAN 26 1933 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

OPUNTIAS

A striking and interesting feature of the Opuntiae is the fact that they propagate from cuttings with great readiness. Here in Texas, if one cuts a cutting of some of the species lying on the ground in the hot sun, absolutely neglected and untouched, they will soon send out roots into the sandy soil and quickly develop into thriving plants. This characteristic of the family makes it possible for us to ship cuttings of these varieties to any distance, and they will quickly take root, if planted in very sandy soil, even though a week or two in transit. Many of the varieties are so large that we offer them—as noted below—in cuttings only. A cutting will start to root better if the freshly cut part of the plant be "calloused," that is, left exposed to the sun for two or three days before planting.

Our offerings of the Opuntiae include more species than offered by any other dealer so far as we know. Many of the species described are quite new. For this reason, we have been unable to have the necessary engravings for many of the species offered in time to be included in this catalog.

BURBANK SPINELESS. Small Slabs, from 75c to \$1.50 each for ones with 3 or more leaves. Large specimens, \$3.00 each.

O. URSINUS (Grizzly Bear). The Old Man Opuntia with long white hair-like spines, 75c to \$1.50 each. Large specimens, \$2.50.

O. BASALARIS. Small leaved, with no apparent spines, 50c to \$1.50.

O. MICRODASY. Yellow, velvet like spines. Very attractive for bowl planting, 75c to \$1.50.

NEW WHITE SPINED OPUNTIA. Oval leaved and rapid grower, and very attractive for bowl planting. 75c to \$1.50.

TREE CHOLLAS. From Arizona. Very attractive. Large specimens, \$2.50 to \$5.00 for 3 foot plants. Small plants for bowl planting, 50c each.

O. NEO ARBUSCULA. A very attractive tree cacti, with handsome blossoms, followed by yellow seed pods. \$2.50 for 2 foot specimens; 3 foot specimens, \$3.50. Small plants up to 18 inches, \$1.00. Six inch plants, 50c each. Tiny ones for bowl planting, 35c.

O. VERSICOLOR. A small stemmed variety and handsome bloomer. Fine for pot planting, 50c to 75c each; only small plants in stock.

Special collection of large Opuntias (10), wonderful for window display, with a specimen of E. Wislizenii, for only \$5.00, express collect. This collection includes all the above listed rare Opuntias and a Cristate Opuntia valued at \$1.50 alone.

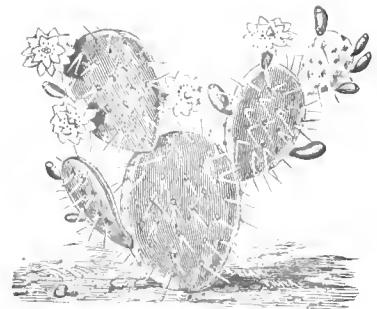
A CRISTATE OPUNTIA leaf that we find occasionally. Price \$1.50. Very rare.



OPUNTIA WOOTONIA—Large plants and grows tall making a hedge, with large orange flowers in May, followed by large crimson fruit. Cuttings 25c, large specimen plant \$1.00 to \$3.00 each



O. MISSOURENSIS. A large leaved variety with very large edible fruit pods. Handsome plant for a Rockery, also hardy. Large plants only. Propagates easily from the single leaf. Large cut of complete leaf 25c. Large plants, \$1.00 up to \$5.00.



OPUNTIA AROBESCENS. Is one of the most decorative of that class. It grows in tree shape and is covered with hundreds of gay blossoms followed by yellow seed pods, that gained it the name of candle cactus. Prices from 25c for good cuts up to \$5.00 for large specimens.

SUCCULENTS

OUR SUCCULENTS make a wonderful display planted in bowls with the cacti, Sedum Altissimum makes a strong growth and is used to hang over the edges of bowls and vases, 35c each.

Sedum dasypodium, is a tufted plant, and every little loose leaf will make a plant if you sow them on soil and sprinkle a little sand over them. Nice little clump, 35c.

Sedum muralis, fine for potting, 35c each.

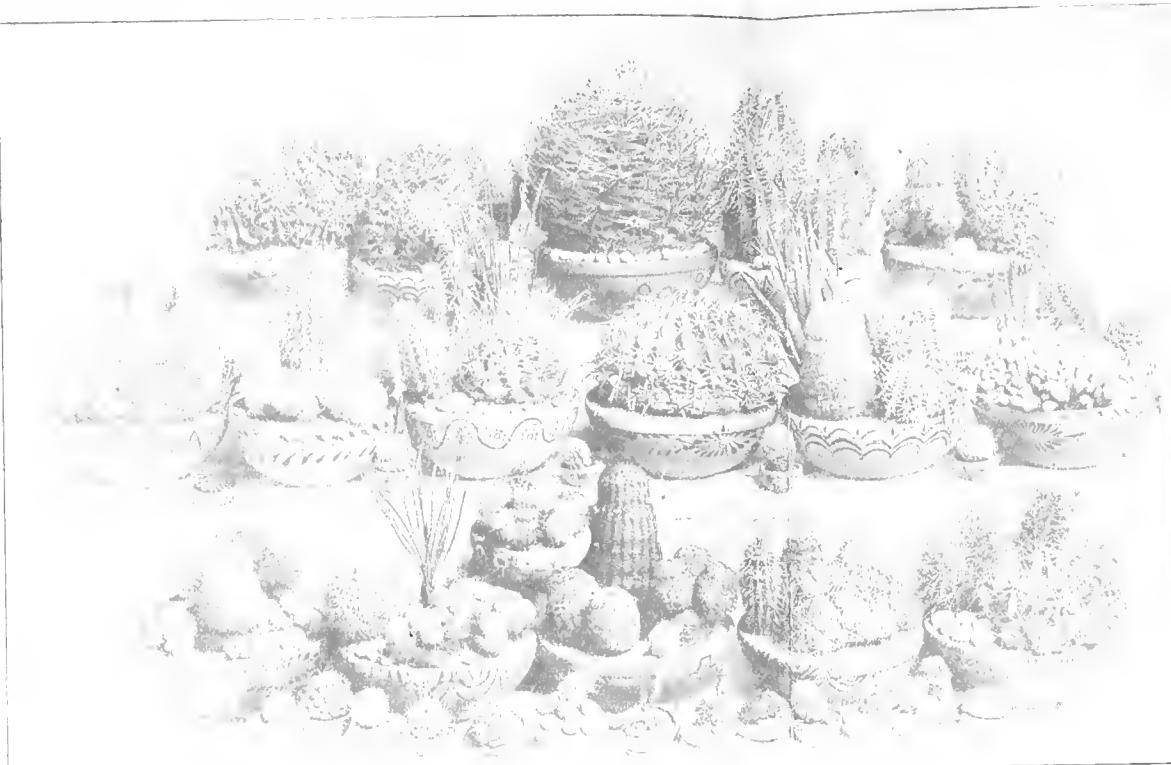
Echeveria Metallica flammula, is one of the very best Christmas plants we know of; little ones will be as large as cabbages in a year and every leaf on the flower stem will make a plant like the ones sent you, 40c each.

Echeveria Secunda Glauca, very desirable, and handsome little plants, 35c each.

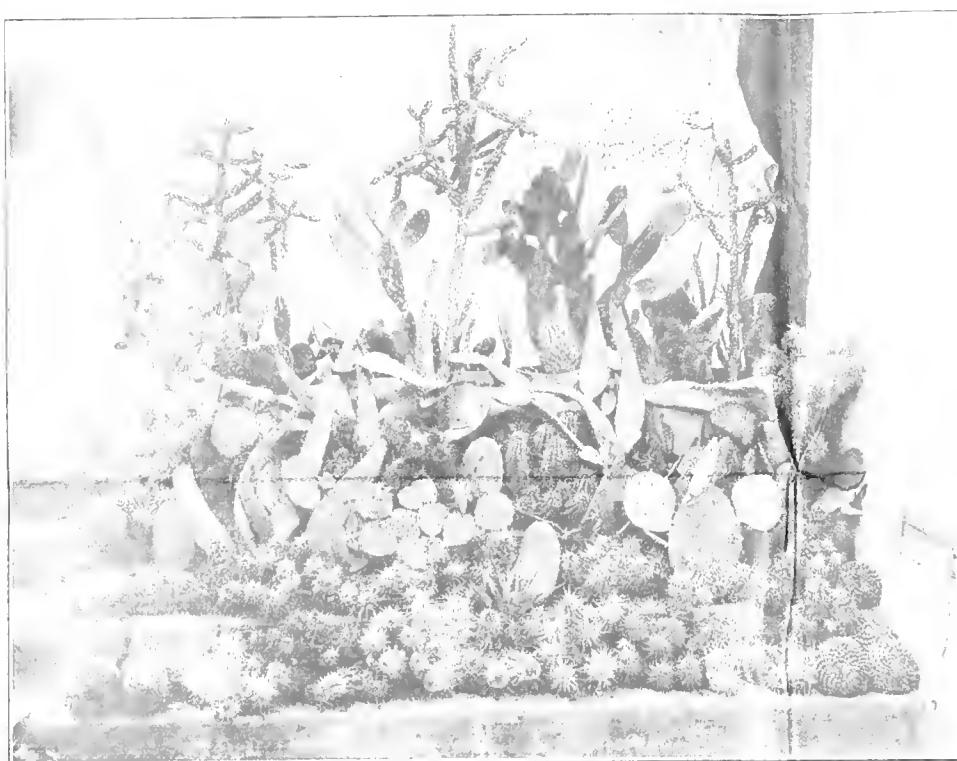
Have a few seedlings Aloe Hanburyana at 25c each.

Selection of 5 succulents \$1.00.

15 PER CENT DISCOUNT FROM ALL PRICES



Attractive Arrangement Display for Table Garden—Attractive Bowls of Cacti



OPUNTIAS

This is one of the commonest and best known of the genera of cacti in temperate North America, because it is as widely distributed as any of the families. It includes the species known by the popular term "prickly pear" of which some spineless forms have been developed and extensively advertised as valuable stock feed. These "prickly pear" forms of the genus are what are called by the botanist the *Platopuntiae*, because of the plate-like forms taken by the joints, which are not leaves, as some people call them, but literally parts of the body of the plant or joints. The genus also contains the "chollas" or Cane cacti, which have thickish, cylindrical, jointed stems, and grow into branched tree-like forms 6 to 10 feet high, called scientifically the *Cylindropuntiae*; Internally, the *Opuntiae* whose joints take a cylindrical form. Other forms of the genus are the slender-stemmed branching shrub with yellow flowers and scarlet berries, the "tasajilla;" and the forms having short club-shaped joints, the *Clavatae*. The *Clavatae* are usually low plants, forming circular mounds, which look like artificially made flower beds when the plants are in bloom. The *Platopuntiae* or "nopales," as the Mexicans call them, vary in size from small creeping forms with joints no bigger than a dollar, to immense trees 20 feet or more in height and with joints a foot to eighteen inches long, half as broad and three or four inches thick. The various divisions of the group, however, are similar in having flowers of the same general shape, spiny fruit, jointed stems, and rudimentary leaves, which fall off shortly after the joints reach their growth.

The *Opuntiae* are remarkable for the profusion of large flowers which they bear, and for their immense handsomely-colored fruits. The flowers are in shades of pale yellow, a beautiful shade of saffron, of rich reddish-yellow, of a purplish-pink, of crimson, and of purple. The fruits, called on some species the "prickly pear" or "tnna," are often 3 or 4 inches long and 2 or 3 inches in diameter. Some, like that of the *Opuntia arborescens*, are of a bright yellow color, whilst others are of a dark purplish shade. It is because the fruit on the *O. arborescens* is such a showy object, making the plant, which grows in bushlike form, visible for miles across the desert, that it is popularly called the "Candle cactus." The fruits of the *Opuntiae* are used extensively as an article of diet in Mexico and by the Indians. Jams, jellies, cheese, and even a kind of bread are made from them. Many kinds have a delicious flavor eaten raw, when ripe and juicy.

The *Opuntiae* render an important service to man in districts where grown, by being used as fences or natural barriers. It is recorded in history that when the island of St. Christopher, of the West Indies, was divided between the French and English, three rows of *Opuntia tama* were planted to mark the boundary. Some varieties form a very strong hedge of dense growth, the branches interlacing and bristling with spines, making an absolutely impassable barrier.

I have a number of *OPUNTIAS* that have not been named, that I will send you for 25¢ to 75¢ all very desirable for Rockerys.

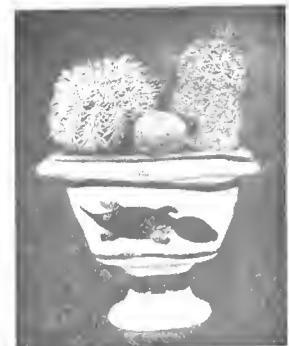


OPUNTIAS.
No Names



YUCCAS, DASYLIRON AND AGAVES

The **YUCCAS** are as decorative as a Palm, and more hardy, making a grand display in the spring with its handsome spikes of waxy blossoms, can furnish all sizes of plants from 50¢ up to \$5.00 for large specimen.



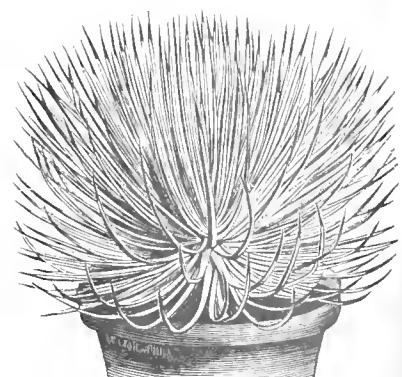
3 RARE CACTI AND BOWLS
\$1.00



WHITE HAIR CACTI
ATTRACTIVE 75¢



AGAVE ATROVIRENS. (MAGUEY PLANT) Large broad thick leaves, very fine plant for potting in bowls, or out of doors, small plants for bowls 50¢ to \$1.50 each.

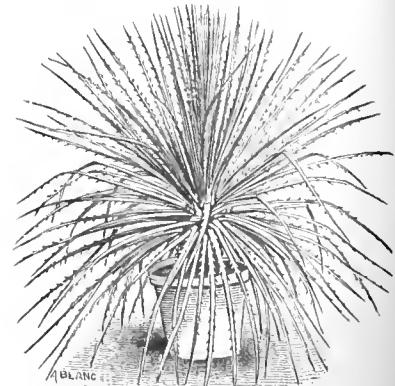


AGAVE STRICTA is a palm-like hardy plant that you will like. Prices from 50¢ up to \$5.00 for large plant.

CENTURY PLANTS.—Handsome small Century Plants, 50¢ to \$1.50 each. Similar to Agave Atrovirens.



THE CEREUS GREGGII.—A fine night blooming variety that has a very large root, with slim stems. A handsome rare variety, \$1.50 to \$3.00 each.



The **DASYLIRON SERRAFOLIA** is a most attractive plant, growing to a large size and has a showy blossom plume in June. Prices from 50¢ up to \$10.00 for big specimen.



The Wonderful Resurrection Plant

OPEN



CLOSED

"THE MIRACLE PLANT OF THE WORLD"

AGENTS AND STREET MEN MAKE LARGE PROFITS SELLING THEM FROM
HOUSE TO HOUSE AND AT FAIRS.

THEY LAST FOREVER.—Simply place their roots only in a shallow dish of water, and they begin to unfold at once. It is very curious to watch them. They make a very handsome decoration for fern dishes. When taken out of water they curl up and sleep till placed in water again. The Everlasting plant if water changed and are allowed to dry out occasionally. We have 2 varieties, fine and coarse leaved.

Small nice plants, \$5.00 per 1,000; larger plants, \$7.00 per 1,000, \$2.00 per 100, post-paid. Largest sizes, \$10.00 per 1,000, all express, collect.

DESERT PLANT CO.

Station A, Box 95

EL PASO, TEXAS



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DESERT PLANT CO.

Station A, Box 95

EL PASO, TEXAS



colors, and are a welcome
to the decorator. They
last forever if water is
changed daily, and they
may be permitted to dry
out and used only when
needed.

Let us send you a few
at these exceptionally
reasonable bargain
prices, **15c** each, 5 for
50c; 10 for **\$1.00**, all
postpaid.

Place only the roots in water in shallow dish

DESSERT PLANT COMPANY

STATION A, BOX 95

EL PASO, TEXAS



ECHINOCACTI

E. INTERTEXTUS. A low growing variety, that grows only on low rocky flats, in very sandy loam. We call it the EARLY BLOOMER, as it blossoms from the last of January, on through March. Has a dainty striped cream colored flower. Price 25c to 50c for largest specimen.



E. UNCINATUS. A very showy, handsome cacti that you will appreciate with its long hooked spines, and orange colored flowers. It is always found in sheltered nooks, and growing in limestone ledges. Prices 25c to \$1.00 for largest specimen.



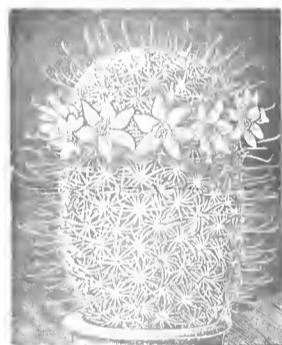
E. BICOLOR, handsome small cacti with rose colored flowers from May to July. 25c to \$1.00 each.

E. SETISPINUS. Called the ever blooming cacti as blossoms repeatedly and followed by small coral colored fruits. Handsome bowl plant. 25c to \$1.00 each.

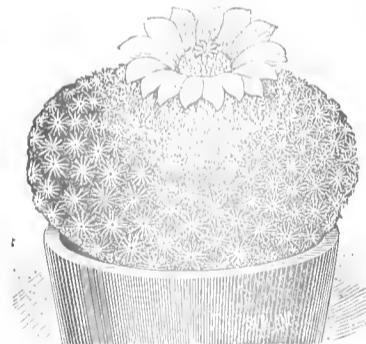
MAMILLARIA

THE MAMILLARIA. Are the most beautiful blooming cacti that we have, and are very easy to grow.

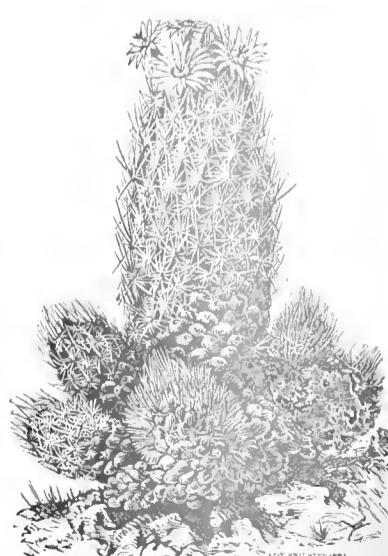
MAM. GRAHAMII. A small growing variety with white spines and dark fine hooked central spines. Its pink blossoms make such a show in blossom time that the collector has an easy time finding them as they dot the limestone cliffs like tiny stars. Prices from 45c to 75c for specimen clusters. Try them on your rockery.



MAMILLARIA GREGGII. Is a big sister to Micromeris, and is also a fine border plant. One peculiarity is that it sends out a succession of pretty red seed pods all winter, making a unique showing among its closely woven fine white spines. It is much larger than the Micromeris. Prices from 25c to 75c for Cristates and clusters.



MAM. TUBERCULOSA. Grows on limestone cliffs, from a single plant to handsome clusters. Nice plant. Prices from 25c to \$1.00 for large cluster. These are small growing varieties.

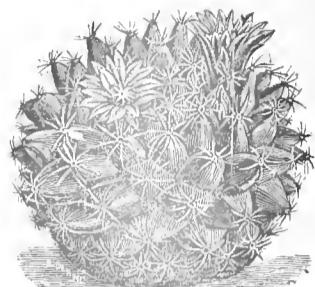


ESCOBARIA SNEEDII. One of the rarest dainty small cluster cacti, with heads like a pencil. Makes clusters rapidly and very attractive. A large bowl is shown on right corner of Large Table garden. Prices for nice small cluster 50c. Large cluster \$1.00 to \$5.00 extra large specimen.

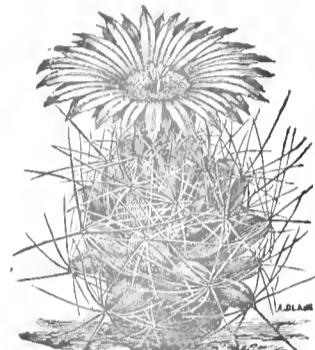
MAM. SCHEERII. A handsome plant that I have listed in the RARE plant you will find description and prices given there.



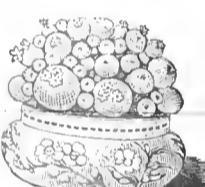
MAM. HEYDERII. A flat growing variety with large tubercles. Good bloomer, followed with pretty red seed pods that stay on a long time. Hardy. Price from 35c to \$1.50 for large specimen.



MAM. RADIOSA. Is very rarely found, they are handsome little cluster varieties, that blossom well. Prices from 35c to \$1.00 for specimen cluster.



MAM. MACROMERIS. A large cluster variety, I do not believe I have ever found a single plant of this variety. Has a handsome blossom, and grows in sandy flats. Clusters from 75c to \$5.00 for large clusters.

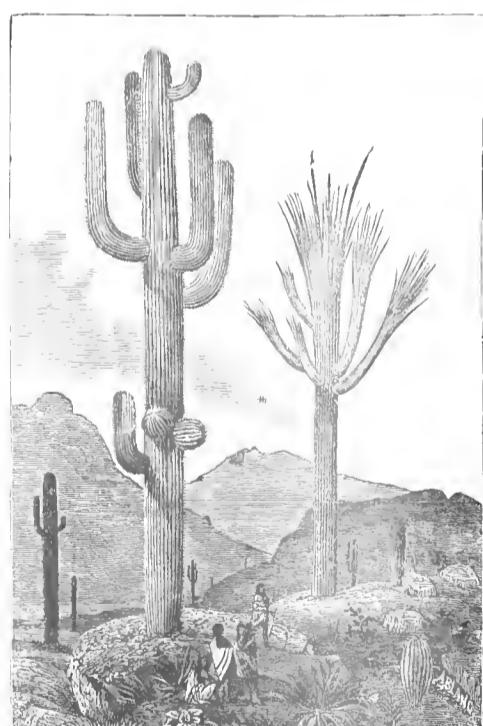


MAM. MEICANTHA. Similar to Heyderii, has different bloom, and spine formation. Prices from 35c to \$1.00 for specimen.

MAM. MICROMERIS. Dr. Rose of the Smithsonian Institute tells us that scientists are about to decide that the Micromeris is not a Mamillaria. However they determine, it is a dainty little cactus that every fancier should have at least a thousand of to use as borders for tall growing varieties. We have it in sizes from a dime to a half dollar, and for the price of two for 35c, 100 for \$8.00.

CEREUS GIGANTEUS

As it is impossible to get any cactuses from Mexico at present, the only Cereus that we are offering is the Cereus Gigantens in large specimens only, five feet tall, \$20.00 F. O. B. Smaller or larger ones a matter of correspondence, as the collector has not made his shipment yet, but will be able to fill orders for specimens and trust to find smaller ones also. Small 6 in. 75c; 18 in. \$2.50; 3 ft. \$5.00.



GENUINE TEXAS RESURRECTION PLANTS



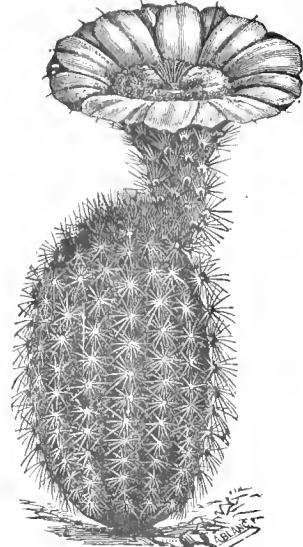
The Resurrection Plant grows in the wilds of the mountains of Western Texas. It is called by the Mexicans the "siempre viva," which means about the same as our English word "everlasting." This is because, although it frequently seems to be entirely dead it quickly revives when it receives moisture.

Gathered at the right season and properly treated, the Resurrection Plant will retain these marvelous qualities. Thoroughly rinse the plant in fresh water to remove dust, then on placing in a saucer of water it will revive within a few minutes and shortly turns into a green, fern-like living plant. At any time it may be taken out of the water, put in a dry place on a shelf, and it will curl up into its dry or dormant condition, and can be kept for an indefinite length of time. The plant will last for years. It requires no soil, no nourishment, no attention, other than to put it in a saucer of water whenever it is desired to revive it.

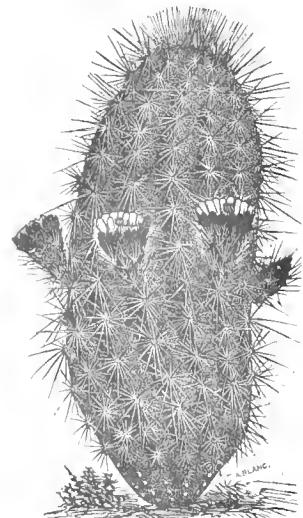
Nice plants, each 10c to 25c. Low wholesale prices to dealers.

ECHINOCEREUS

E. C. DASYCANTHUS. A handsome plant with very large yellow blossoms. The spines vary in color from white to brown, and red tipped, making such a different display that you might say there are 4 colors of it—most anyone would believe a different variety. Prices from 35c to \$1.50 for handsome cluster specimens.



E. C. FENDELERII. One of the most popular Echinocereus, with its many handsome blossoms in May that perfume the house. Single heads, 35c; large clusters, 75c to \$1.50.



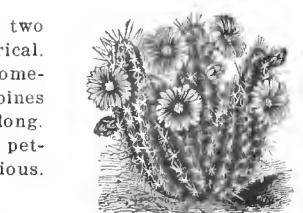
E. C. CLORANTHUS. Another variety that has showy spines of all colors. One will be all white the other yellow, and another very red tipped with its greenish-brown blossoms. You will be pleased to have a specimen of every color. Prices from 35c to \$1.50 for large handsome clusters.



E. C. POLYCAanthUS. A large cluster variety that blossoms profusely. Has light yellow spines, and is a very handsome plant. Clusters only. 50c to \$1.50 for specimens.



E. C. PECTINATUS, Var. CAESPITOSUS. Stems two to six inches high, by two to three inches in diameter, usually solitary, but sometimes in small clusters, greyish green ribs of which there are from twelve to eighteen, covered with whitish wool and white, rose or brown tinted spines. Flowers produced on top of stems, the short tube clothed with woolly spines. Spread of petals three to five inches, deep rose, semi-double, anthers yellow; stigma bright green. The flowers are as fragrant as honey suckles and the handsomest of native Texas globular cacti; the large bloom on a two inch plant gives it a top heavy appearance. Prices from 50c to \$1.50 for nice specimen.



E. C. ENNEACANTHUS. Stems six inches to two feet in height, by two inches in diameter, cylindrical. Light green in color, forms very large clusters, sometimes hundreds of heads. Ribs shallow, spines straight, yellowish to black, about one inch long. Flowers bourn in May and June near top of stem, petals deep purple, stamens yellow. Fruit delicious. Prices 50c—\$1.00 to \$5.00 for large clusters.

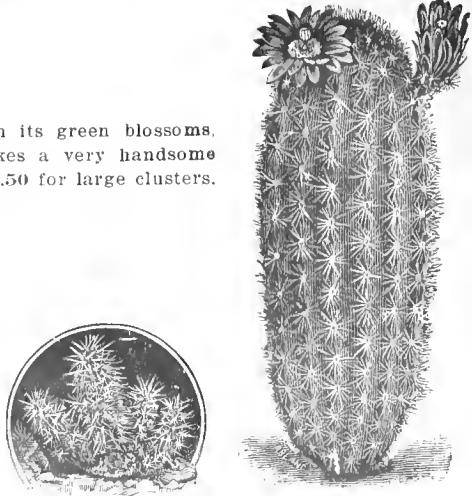


CONOIDES

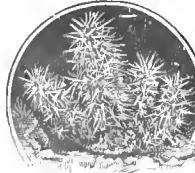
E. C. CONOIDES. Grows similarly to Polycanthus, but has large, almost black spines with brick red blossoms. Clusters only, 50c to \$1.50.



E. C. VIRIDIFLORUS. With its green blossoms, and short dark red spines makes a very handsome plant. Prices from 50c up to \$1.50 for large clusters.



E. C. STRAMINEUS. Has long straw colored spines, and fine bloomer. Grows on limestone ledges in large clusters. Very showy plant for a Rockery. Prices from 50c up to \$5.00 for large specimen cluster. Better put lime in soil.



ECHINOCEREUS RIGIDISSIMUS. One of the most popular cacti found. Its spines alone make such an attractive display, every collector should have it in his collection. Its gorgeous blossoms as shown above makes it a perfect cacti to grow the year 'round. Have some fine large specimens, 12 to 16 inches tall, \$2.50, \$1.00, 75c, 50c, down to 35c for the smallest.



DESCRIPTION OF SOME NEW ECHINOCEREUS

E. C. BERLANDIERI. A beautiful plant of creeping or trailing habit, forming a tuft of rather soft and watery stems, six inches to several feet in length, by three quarters of an inch in thickness, bearing on the ridges little tubercles crowned with one inch long spines and clusters of short spines. Flowers four inches across, composed of bright purple petals, on erect bristly tube, and rose colored stamens, the stigma standing well above them. It is an ideal window box or hanging basket plant, has fine fruit, and is hardy anywhere in the Southern states. Prices from 50c to \$1.50 each cluster.

SOME ATTRACTIVE ODDS AND ENDS

CHRISTMAS CACTI (Epiphyllum Truncatum). Nice six inch plants, 75c each.

CORAL CACTUS. Small stemmed variety, fine for bowls, always green and no spines. Nice large cutting, roots easily in sandy loam, 75c.

E. LONGHAMATUS. Has fine long spines, and good bloomer in May and June, followed by purple seed pods. From \$1.00 to \$5.00 for 15 pound specimen.

RARE PYOTE CACTI, A. WILLIAMSII. The cacti the Indians use as an intoxicant. They are small dumpling like plants, always green, and blossoms in June, small pink flower. 75c each.

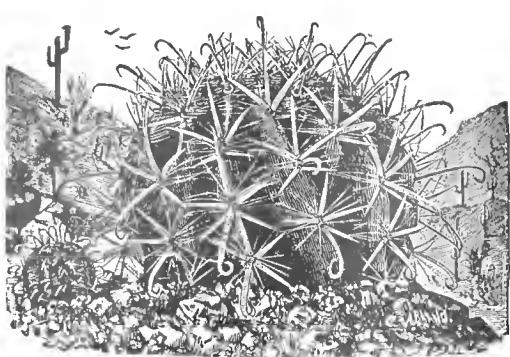
M. PUSILLA. A very dainty, small cluster variety. Small cluster, 50c.

M. LASIACANTHA VAR DENUDATA. Small, dainty variety, similar to the Micromeris. Fine for bordering bowls, 25c each, \$2.00 dozen.

E. FERRISHI. Very dainty, handsome cacti. Blossoms very early and easy to grow. 50c to \$1.00 each.

E. WISLIZENII. A very handsome, decorative plant, with its long bands hooked spines the Indians used as fish hooks. It blossoms in July, and follows with large yellow seed pods that stay on for months, lending a pretty effect all winter.

5 inch plants 75c. 10 inch plants \$1.50. Large specimens \$5.00 up to \$25.00 F. O. B.



E. HORIZONTALIS. One of the Hedgehog variety, and has very handsome blossoms from June to July. Many complain that it rots for them easily. Try giving very little water, and drainage in sandy loam soil. There are two forms of this cacti, one has very few spines on ribs; it is very rarely found, but can furnish a few at 50c to \$1.00 each for specimen. Common variety, price 35c to \$1.00 for specimens.

